

Kim Harris' Testimony
Appropriations Committee
2-17-22

To The Co-Chairs – Rep Walker, Osten and committee members.

My name is Kim Harris of 29 Lander Street, New Haven, CT. Today I'm here asking for support in adjusting the Governors proposed budget.

I'm the founder of Inspired Communities Inc., and a 2nd generation Child Care Director / Owner called the Harris & Tucker School. When my Mom and my Auntie started the school, in 1970, they were coming out of times similar to today. Little funding for black and brown child care services and communities of color, easy access to guns and drugs and unfair wage opportunities. The intent was and still is to cultivate Our SEEDS, Students who will be enriched with education and determination for success. In other words making sure that our children have pathways for making what seems impossible, possible.

You see, I'm a product of the biggest community of need in New Haven, which is Newhallville. I'm a Community leader because of the investments that were poured into me.

As we continue to fight for increased quality of life, we are also striving to not have our values, hopes and dreams wiped away with the potential of the APT Foundation bringing a methadone clinic to our door steps.

Please know, we are not anti-Treatment nor are we anti-government help. We are for investment. Investments that will transform and transcend our children and our communities.

When I think about what childcare providers and community leader have done just in the last two years by putting their lives on the line, the answer to the ask should be a resounding yes.

With that being said, here's the ask of the Appropriations Committee:

We need an Investment line item for the community of Newhallville, investments that will allow for the purchase of 794 Dixwell Ave. in New Haven, CT., so that our children and seniors who serve children are not faced with seeing the negative results of pre and post treatment from a methadone clinic that is across the street from where they live and or get on the bus to go to school.

Secondly, I'm asking you to Remember the SEEDS, our children. Without an ongoing reinvestment into our children and the providers, especially children of color, our future will be very bleak and maybe even put out of exists.

Lastly, your help in the nature of these matters are of extreme importance. I hope that together, we can create pathways that make what seem impossible, possible.

Thank you for your time.